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**IN THE CLAIMS**

--1-9. (Cancelled).

10-18. (New).

**ABSTRACT**

[The invention relates to a] A mobile route monitoring unit [comprising] including a data store, which stores predefined route data, a position sensor, which determines the position of the mobile route monitoring unit, a processor, which determines possible deviations from a route defined by [said] the route data, a permissible route, and the actual position of the unit and a transmitter, which in the event of a deviation from the route sends a signal to a center. [Combination of the] The above-mentioned elements [to] form a mobile unit that enables self-sufficient route monitoring to be performed, which can accordingly occur locally, i.e., executed by the mobile route monitoring unit. The necessity of transmitting cost incurring signals at regular intervals becomes superfluous. Non-permissible route deviations are rapidly determined and are securely communicated by sending a signal to the center. The [invention also relates to the] utilization of a permissible and defined region instead of [said] the route is also realized.--